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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

William H. Shafer
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March 31, 1999

Mr. William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington DC 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard:

This is related to the FCC consideration of licensing low-power FM radio stations, a move I support. The creation of licensed low-power stations will have a beneficial effect, particularly for areas now neglected and presently not served by existing FM and AM stations. As I tune the radio dial in this area there is a repetition of station format; talk shows, news stations, sports programs and rock music. I believe the concentration of station ownership has contributed to this pattern of similarity. The only refuge is local public radio.

I am a member of the generation that grew up during the Depression, survived WW II, benefitted from the GI Bill, raised the baby boom generation and provided the prosperity we now enjoy. I like big band music of the 30's and 40's. I can put my treasured vinyl discs on a turntable or load my CD player with these selections but these do not match a presentation by a live program host who can add entertaining commentary about the music, artists and performance. There is only one 3-hour show on public radio that provides this combination (Sundays 11AM-2PM). I am a person not being fully served by the present arrangement.

I believe that low-power broadcasting can fill a gap and will be successful. As evidence, look at the Internet where a wide variety of different subjects, some very abstruse, can be accessed. The modest capital requirement needed to build a low-power station, and the modest staff needed for operation should allow each such station to offer programs with limited appeal. Low-power FM will allow "narrowcasting" to audiences with unique, shared interests.

Please share this letter with the Commissioners and make it a part of the record. I hope the FCC will recommend to Congress the addition of licensed low-power FM.

Sincerely,

William H. Shafer
William H. Shafer

cc Honorable Danny K. Davis
Representative, 7th District.

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